

# SPiKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

January 29, 2001

## What's Inside



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## Complaint forms upset faculty

By Michelle Goring

Conestoga Students Inc. has received negative feedback from the Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 237 concerning the student complaint forms available at the CSI office.

The CSI has invited students to fill out the complaint forms if they feel they have not been treated fairly by the college or believe their student rights have been violated.

After a full-page advertisement about the student complaint forms ran in the Jan. 8 edition of the college's newspaper Spoke, the CSI received a memo from faculty union president Walter Boettger.

The memo, which was sent to all college teachers and counsellors on Jan. 17, stated that union members consider the student complaint forms to be completely outside the existing process for settling disputes and appealing academic decisions detailed in the Student Procedure Guide.

It said the local takes exception to the CSI initiative for handling student complaints and believes the college has the exclusive right to initiate assessment of a teacher's performance as reflected in the collective agreement and college policy.

The memo also states "by allowing the CSI to operate outside the standard practice of due process could open the door to civil action by faculty."

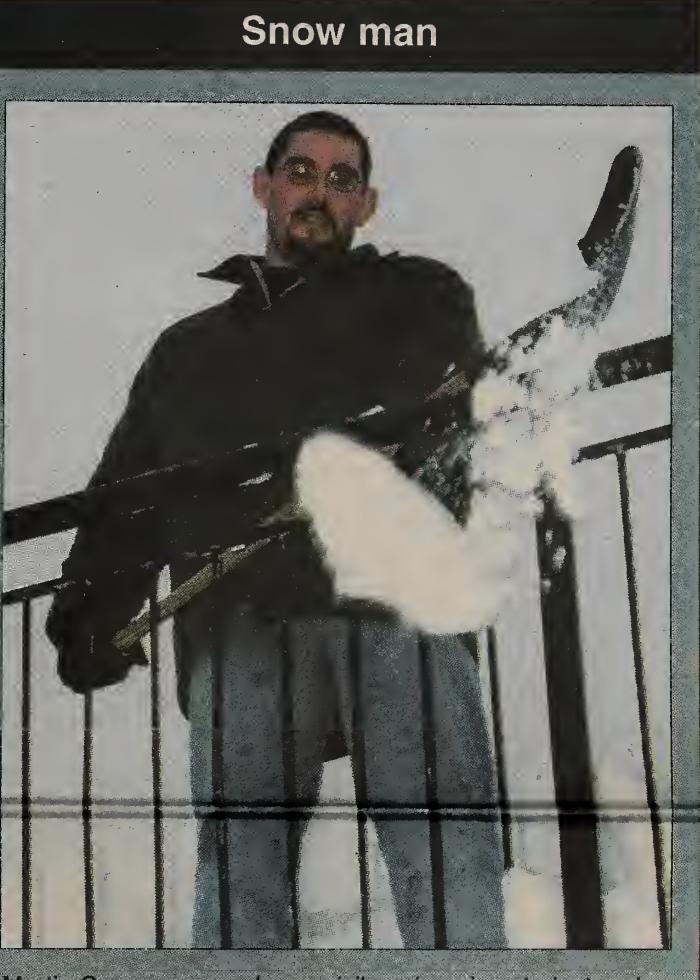
Boettger refused to comment when approached by Spoke.

In response to the union memo, Michael Harris, CSI vice-president of academics, replied in a letter to the faculty union stating, "Until the review (of the Student Procedure Guide) is complete, we are encouraging students to follow the current edition as well as the College Harassment Policy."

The CSI would like the Student Procedure Guide to be clearer about the college's criteria for academic appeal and allow students to be more directly involved with the appeal process by allowing students to participate on appeal panels. Currently appeal panels consist of faculty, a counsellor from student services and someone from administration.

According to the Rights and Responsibilities section of the Student Procedure Guide, students who have complaints or wish to appeal an academic decision can consult with a counsellor at student services.

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Snow man

Martin Goyer, a second-year civil engineering student and employee of the rec centre, shovels snow off the centre's roof Jan. 18. The snow melted during the recent thaw, breaking the concrete around the base of the rail.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

## LASA to train soldiers from Middle East

By Tammy Somerville

Conestoga College has entered a partnership with Saudi Arabia to bring soldiers to Canada to train in the LASA program.

The deal, orchestrated by a former student of the program, Jeff Speckeen, manager of counter terrorism and advanced security for Saudi Science Applications International (SSAI) and Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), was finalized Jan. 16.

SAIC is an employee-owned U.S. company contracted to do police training around the world. SSAI is the Saudi branch of SAIC.

Commodore Saeed S. Muawad, general manager of SSAI and SAIC, signed a letter of intent with Kevin Mullan, vice-president of Conestoga, to co-operate in the development and delivery of security related programs.

The deal allows for soldiers from Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Dubai and Riyadh the opportunity to train at Conestoga College in a two-week pilot project

beginning in May.

The Abu Dhabi general director of police has contracted SAIC to provide the Abu Dhabi police with practical work and instruction in law enforcement and security techniques. The college is bidding to have its instructors sent to the Middle East in the future.

**"I knew that Conestoga was capable of handling the need."**

*Jeff Speckeen,  
Manager of counter terrorism  
and advanced security*

Muawad said he wants Saudi soldiers to get the advantage of Canadian police training for the experience and skills.

"It will definitely be a benefit that comes in two forms. One is to send people here for advanced training within the college and the other is to send instructors there. This is the kind of security service to be provided in the SAIC," said Muawad.

Speckeen, stationed in Saudi Arabia, said SAIC has a long history of delivering U.S. government approved training programs throughout the world.

A graduate of the LASA program in 1988, Speckeen was immediately hired by Peel regional police where he worked on the bomb disposal squad until 1996.

A delegation from Saudi Arabia looked at the training and equipment used in Peel where Speckeen provided demonstrations for the Saudi police commanding officers.

"At that point, I was asked by the commanding general through my chief of police to come over to Saudi Arabia and be an instructor in their special operations branch."

He added the situation was unique because the Saudi police force had never had a western police officer inside its ministry.

Asked to come for a year, Speckeen's stay turned into two years.

"Living over there took some getting used to. After the first year I was able to get used to the culture and the way they did things, proce-

dures and things like that, but it was difficult," said Speckeen.

After returning to Peel regional police, SAIC asked him to be the managing director of the Middle East counter terrorism training operations.

"They wanted to establish training in the Middle East and I had the flexibility to introduce Canadian training. I knew that Conestoga was capable of handling the need," said Speckeen.

The agreement allows SAIC to market Conestoga College's law and security program and others in the Middle East with an effort to bring officers here for training.

"We have a pilot program starting with an accident and investigations course that will see around 20 officers coming over," said Speckeen. "After the pilot project we'll be looking at courses potentially next fall."

Speckeen added everyone involved is looking forward to long-term courses, but it will depend on the interest from soldiers and the success of the pilot program in May.

## Teachers react negatively to CSI forms

Continued from Page 1

However, the college human rights policy (which outlines what harassment and discrimination is and how to deal with it) states that students should "talk to someone they trust and seek support."

This, according to CSI vice-president Jon Olinski, is why the CSI has decided to provide student complaint forms. "We're trying to help students through the process because we've found that some students don't feel comfortable going through the process on their own," said Olinski. "What we want to do is be there for the student. Even if we have to hold the students' hands through each step of the process to ensure the process is followed correctly and they know what their rights and responsibilities are."

The CSI has asked college administration for a review of the Student Procedure Guide, documenting that Conestoga needs to make advancements in order to meet the needs of the student population.

"Things are getting totally blown out of proportion," said Harris, "and that's why we had to explain ourselves in our formal letter to the college faculty and counsellors."

Harris said one of the reasons for initiating the student complaint forms was the results of last year's KPI survey results.

Results from the Key Performance Indicator surveys stated that 33 per cent of the student body wanted to see more involvement from the student union in helping them with student rights.

## LASA grad sets up deal

Continued from Page 1

Don Douglas, co-ordinator of the LASA and police foundations programs at Conestoga, said the partnership is an incredible opportunity to expand the training of soldiers from other countries.

"We are getting international exposure. When Jeff approached us, we lit up like candles," added Douglas.

All soldiers coming to the college will be briefed and screened before they leave. Considering the major differences in culture, Douglas said there will be cultural sensitivity training on both sides.

"They (Saudi soldiers) pray four times a day so we will have to provide a room or location where they can do their midday prayer."

Douglas said all cultural differences are being taken into account. Saudi Arabia's timetable runs Saturday to Wednesday so the college will work with the soldiers to adjust them to a western timetable.

Muawad said the soldiers are anxious because they have heard about the level of training available in Canada, but added the cultural differences won't be a problem.

"Living here will not be an issue because as Saudis we've been trained all over the world," Muawad said. "By nature, we usually do different kinds of training to expose our people to changes. We train them to be exposed to different ideals in total."

excellence at Ontario community colleges.

"Last year we, the student association, were allowed to ask a question on the survey. We asked the students, who we represent, which of the following services that the CSI offers do you want to see improved. The results showed 33 per cent of students said they wanted better academic representation and academic awareness. So we felt we had to act," Harris said.

Although the Jan. 8 ad was the first in Spoke, the student complaint form has been available since the start of the 2000/2001 school year.

In Section 3 of the Student Survival Guide 2000/2001, the student planner students receive at the beginning of the fall semester, the student complaint form appears in the Right to Appeal and Your Responsibilities section that

includes a chart that shows how the appeal process works. According to the second step of the appeal process chart, the student is to contact CSI or student services.

"The student survival guide has to be approved by the college before we are allowed to administer it to students," said Harris. "There wasn't a problem with the form then."

Conestoga College is not the only college to have student complaint forms available to students. The Cambrian College student association, Cambrian Students Inc., in Sudbury, also has student complaint forms. That is where the idea for the Conestoga forms originated. Humber College in Toronto also has student complaint forms.

"The only difference between our forms and their forms is perhaps ours are working better," said Harris.

## Monday afternoon football



Mike Weekes, a first-year woodworking technician student, enjoyed a warm afternoon by playing football with his class Jan. 15.

(Photo by Sanja Musa)

## STUDENT SERVICES GROUPS AND WORKSHOPS

### WINTER 2001 SCHEDULE

The following groups and workshops are offered through Student Services room 2B02. Please come by on or before **FEBRUARY 5, 2001** to sign up and bring a copy of your timetable. You will be contacted by the facilitator of the scheduled dates and times.

#### GROUPS:

<b>Multicultural Networking Group</b>	Rob Phripp and Melissa Turner
<b>Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Networking Group</b>	Barb Kraler
<b>Test Anxiety Group</b>	Joan Magazine
<b>Public Speaking Anxiety Group</b>	Carol Gregory
<b>Concentration With Ease Group</b>	Rob Phripp and Karen Ritter
<b>Confidence In You Group</b>	Lynn Robbins

#### FACILITATOR:

#### WORKSHOPS:

<b>Relaxation Workshop</b>	Karen Ritter
<b>Stress Management</b>	Karen Ritter
<b>Eating Disorders Awareness Workshop</b> During the week of February 4 to February 9 2001 for Eating Disorders Awareness Week	Lynn Robbins

#### FACILITATORS:

#### STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOPS:

#### FACILITATOR: MELISSA TURNER

**Time Management**  
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**Listening and Note Taking**  
**Multiple Choice Test Taking**  
**Preparing for Tests and Exams**

DON'T HESITATE. SPACE IS LIMITED SO COME IN TO STUDENT SERVICES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

## Loan default rates low

By Sanja Musa

Conestoga College has the lowest default rate on student loans among the 25 community colleges in Ontario for the year 2000.

The default rate for 2000 reflects the payment status of students who were issued OSAP in the 1997-98 academic year and completed or exited their studies in 1998-99.

A student loan is in default when the Ontario government has paid a bank's claim for a loan if the student hasn't made payments for at least 90 days after he/she left the post-secondary institution.

In total, the 25 community colleges in Ontario had a 17.2 per cent loan default rate in 2000.

Conestoga College's default rate has been the lowest of any other college in the province for the past five years.

Although the college's default rate had jumped from 15.9 per cent in 1996 to 19.5 per cent in 1997, it maintained the lowest figure of any community college in Ontario in 1997.

Conestoga College's default rate slightly increased in 1998 to 20.8 per cent and declined to 16.6 per cent in 1999. Conestoga's default rate in 2000 was 12.5 per cent.

According to Fred Harris, the college's registrar, maintenance



Harris

of a low default rate depends on elements such as a combination of good programs and faculty and maintenance of good admission and promotion policies.

"I think all these elements intertwined produce a low loan default rate," Harris said.

The college carefully analyses the qualifications of applicants to ensure a higher number of graduates from the programs.

"We try to achieve good admission standards," Harris said. "If students graduate, they have more chances to find employment and to repay their student loans."

About half of the students at the college take OSAP. Those students who withdraw from the college form about 35 per cent of the

college's loan default rate and students who graduate form about 13 per cent of the total figure.

The financial aid office goes out to meetings held in high schools and provides students and their parents with information on repaying the loan.

Another important factor in maintaining a low default rate is creating programs that are aligned with workplace needs and opportunities.

"Obviously, if a graduate is employed, it is more likely he is going to repay his OSAP and the default rate will remain low," Harris said.

A low default rate is also achieved by maintaining efficient staff so that students enrolled in the programs have a reasonable chance in succeeding to graduate from the programs, Harris added.

### Facts

- In 2000, the 25 community colleges in Ontario had a total loan default rate of 17.2 per cent.
- Conestoga's default rate has been the lowest for five years.

## Upgrades under way at Doon's rec centre

By Derek Lester

The recreation centre at Conestoga College's Doon campus is undergoing major renovations.

"Twenty years ago, this was the No. 1 recreational facility within the college system," said Tony Martin, development manager for the athletics and recreation centre. "Now the facility is older and upgrades are needed."

Physical resources personnel are working on fixing a couple of little leaks coming through the roof over the gymnasium and security cameras have been installed in the lobbies and hallways.

There have been cosmetic changes as well.

"We have music throughout the building now, which was never here before, using, of course, 88.3 (the college's new FM-radio station)," Martin said.

The concession stand offers different food and snacks, and the staff are completing customer service training.

The rec centre will be getting a phone hotline to inform people of all the activities being held at the rec centre each day.

The rec centre is waiting for confirmation of the telephone number, and then people can call in from outside the college and listen to the voice mail message.

Many faculty and employees, along with some students, want to have a fitness program at the rec centre, said Martin.

"We can free up the weight room, move all the equipment that's there upstairs into the concourse, do all the renovations in the concourse, have the bar up in the concourse and have viewing for the gym and the arena in the concourse."

"Twenty years ago, this was the No. 1 recreational facility within the college system."

*Tony Martin,  
development manager for  
the athletics and  
recreation centre*

The old weight room will be used for the fitness program.

Martin said that the rec centre has become more user friendly, and students like the changes.

Conceptual drawings of the proposed changes will be on display in the lobby the second week in February.

Students, faculty and employees will be surveyed to determine what people want at the rec centre, he said.

## We DARE you to take the PLUNGE 20th Annual Polar Plunge

12 noon



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Polar  
Plunge  
2001

Doon Pond

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## Love is love regardless of sexuality

History was made a few short weeks ago in Toronto when two homosexual couples were married at the Metropolitan Church of Toronto.

Elaine and Anne Vautour and Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell were wed by Rev. Brent Hawkes before the packed church in what were the first "legal" homosexual marriages in North America.

According to the Toronto Star, Ontario's Consumer Minister Bob Runciman has already said he will not register the marriages, refusing to accept their validity.

Hawkes responded by saying, "whether or not the Ontario government deems it wise...to register these marriages, it does not affect the legal status. Once I sign those documents, the marriage licence is issued and the couples will be legally married."

Hawkes has also said the church will take the matter to court if the province refuses to register the marriages.

It seems somewhat ironic that this issue should come to a boil now, only a few short months after the death of one of the greatest liberal statesman this country has ever seen. Those words of his ring truer now than they did even then. "The government has no business in the bedrooms of its citizens."

Those words spoken 20 years ago by Pierre Trudeau when he decriminalized homosexuality could have been spoken this week.

There are those who would argue that homosexuality is wrong, and that if the government was to allow homosexual marriages it would be an open endorsement of immorality.

**It is a testament to the depth of their love and commitment to each other that they still chose to go ahead with the ceremony, knowing what lay ahead.**

But those are personal beliefs based upon religious beliefs and irrational emotion; they have no place in the courts. They have no place in the minds of people deciding whether these marriages should be legal.

This is not a matter of misguided souls and it is not a matter of child abuse. It most certainly isn't a matter of some other great sin, regardless of what some people may believe.

This is a case of two couples who love each other dearly, and wish, like we all do, to express to the world that they have chosen the person they wish to spend the rest of their lives with.

In essence, what happened in Toronto on Jan. 14, 2001, is no different than what has happened on anyone else's wedding day.

When it is all stripped down to the core, two couples who love each other very much, expressed that love for each other publicly.

It is always difficult to say "I love you" in public. Marriage is that announcement of love shouted to the world, and it must have been that much more difficult for those couples knowing the potential backlash that could, and has, erupted from their announcement.

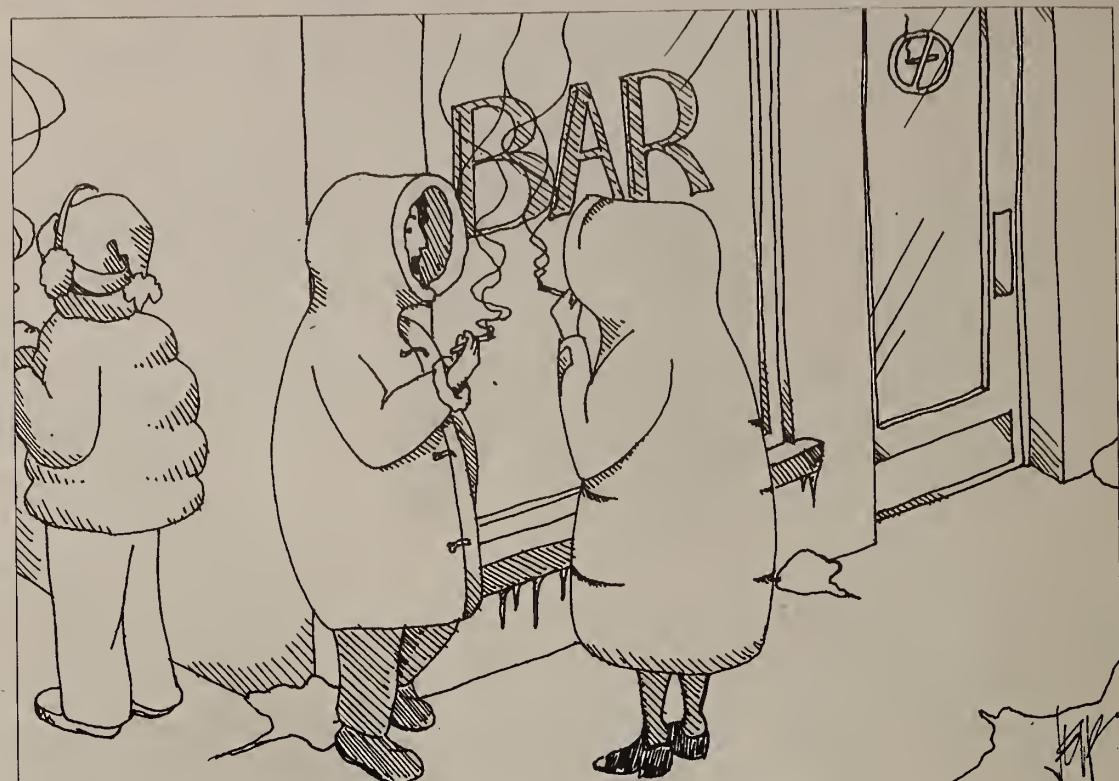
It is a testament to the depths of their love and commitment to each other that they still chose to go ahead with the ceremony, knowing what lay ahead.

Can it really be an evil thing, as some people would suggest, for these people to love each other as much as they do?

Can it really be wrong?

It is not our place to tell them who they can marry, who they can or cannot love.

The government has no business telling them they cannot love each other like a man and woman can, and neither do we.



**SO... DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?**

## Teen's story a mirror of hurt

By Michelle Goring

When I read about the Cornwall area teenager who was arrested after writing a drama piece about blowing up his school then allegedly threatening three students, my initial reaction was "good for the school."

After all, the school system has had a rash of problems with high school kids ranging from the Columbine incident to bomb threats in local area schools. It's about time kids realized schools are not going to put up with threats of violence.

The Columbine incident, which occurred at the Colorado high school on April 20, 1999, involved two disgruntled students who went on a shooting rampage killing 13 people and then themselves.

However, when I read the drama piece (which is available on the Internet) I was surprised to see that it is not necessarily a threat of violence, but a cry for help.

Entitled Twisted, the story is about a teenager who feels like an outsider. It is a monologue about one teenager trying to deal with peer rejection and the belief that he does not fit in.

The story opens with the student admitting he has had enough. Enough from peers who taunt him and mock him "for no specific reason other than they wanted to," as well as teachers who had their "class pets" and a principal who

"didn't plain just like him (sic)."

Further into the story the author admits it was the rejection from his peers that finally "warped him." He describes how, at school, he tried to fit in but was constantly rejected by his peers, and how this caused him to "retreat from the world."

The story made me think back to my high school days and how "fitting in" was all too important. Everyone wants to fit in. It is almost imperative at that age to have a sense of belonging at school and a group of friends you can rely on to be there.

However, when you do not have anyone and you are constantly being teased, especially for no apparent reason, it hurts.

The story goes on to describe how, after one day of harsh treatment, the hurt and the pain finally added up to such an unbearable level that the teenager devised a plan to get back at the school.

A person does not even have to go through the same ordeal to know that a situation like the one described in the teenager's monologue would hurt and probably cause negative feelings towards the kids who made him feel that way.

The story's ending describes the boy planting dynamite throughout the school and setting the detonator, not an appropriate method for dealing with bullies, but it is, after all, just a story. The teenager clearly

used his drama assignment to vent to his fellow classmates how their teasing and rejection made him feel.

The teenager used his freedom of expression to identify a tragic situation he and perhaps, possibly thousands of students, are dealing with. He should be applauded for using creative expression as an outlet rather than acting out his torment as other students, pushed to the edge, have done in the past.

I think the school went too far when they called police and the 16-year-old author was arrested and held for 30 days for allegedly uttering death threats against other students through his story.

I also feel the school should take some responsibility for the situation that caused the teenager to write the story in the first place.

The treatment of the author has roused so much controversy that not only have freedom of expression advocates and writers' groups expressed outrage at the case, but well-known Toronto lawyer Clayton Ruby, who frequently takes on high-profile human rights cases, has offered to represent the teenager for free.

After all, I think we can sympathize with this teenager. Most of us have had feelings he expressed through his monologue at one time or another. And, perhaps, we see in him a little of ourselves at that age.

# SPOKE

## Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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SPOKE is mainly funded from September to May by a payment from Conestoga Students Inc. (CSI) in exchange for the insertion of advertising in the paper. The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the views of Conestoga College or the CSI. Advertisers in SPOKE are not endorsed by the CSI unless their advertisements contain the CSI logo. SPOKE shall not be liable for any damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space. Unsolicited submissions must be sent to the editor by 9:30 a.m. Monday. Submissions are subject to acceptance or rejection and should be clearly written or typed; a WordPerfect or MS Word file would be helpful. Submissions must not contain any libellous statements and may be accompanied by an illustration (such as a photograph).

# College firefighter program shapes up

By Derek Lester

Conestoga College is to get a new three-semester pre-service firefighter program, and it should start this fall.

Conestoga already has a two-semester pre-entry firefighter program, which will be discontinued, said Bill Jeffrey, dean of the school of health sciences and community services.

The main difference between the two firefighter programs is the new program will contain vigorous physical training not offered in the old program.

The college had to get approval from the Ontario Association of

Fire Chiefs/Office of the Fire Marshal Endorsement Review Board, which endorses the content for the new firefighter program.

"We are very pleased with the announcement," Jeffrey said.

About 30 to 35 students will be accepted into the program. Jeffrey expects at least 100 to 150 applicants.

He also expects that the program will become very popular within two or three years once the college does start to advertise it.

Conestoga will be partnering with area fire departments and the University of Waterloo to offer the program.

Conestoga will teach the skills

needed to be a firefighter, and firefighters from Brantford, Cambridge, Guelph, Kitchener, Stratford and Waterloo will assist the students in their training.

The students cannot become firefighters without the mandatory training at UW.

Students will have to carry an 85 pound hose up and down stairs, walk on a treadmill, which gradually goes faster, do timed sit-ups, carry bricks on their neck and shoulders, search a dark room for dolls, which represent people, while wearing a mask, go up a 40-foot ladder to rule out any fears of height and perform a dummy drag which involves the student drag-

ging a 200-pound dummy across a room.

Jeffrey witnessed students doing these drills, and he saw one student throw up into a paper bag after the treadmill drill.

It will be very important to be physically fit, and that will be stressed a lot in the new program, he added.

The students must also do hearing and visual tests. They must have 20/30 vision or better.

After all those tests are completed successfully, students will have to write a provincial certified exam before graduating from the program.

There are jobs out there for firefighter graduates, said Jeffrey, and

it takes about three to four years after students graduate to become a first-class firefighter.

The college will also offer the firefighter program to part-time students. This will allow those students to be volunteer firefighters and go to school at the same time.

Students currently in the pre-entry firefighter program at the college will transfer into the new program and will have to complete any additional classes in the new curriculum as well as the physical endurance drills.

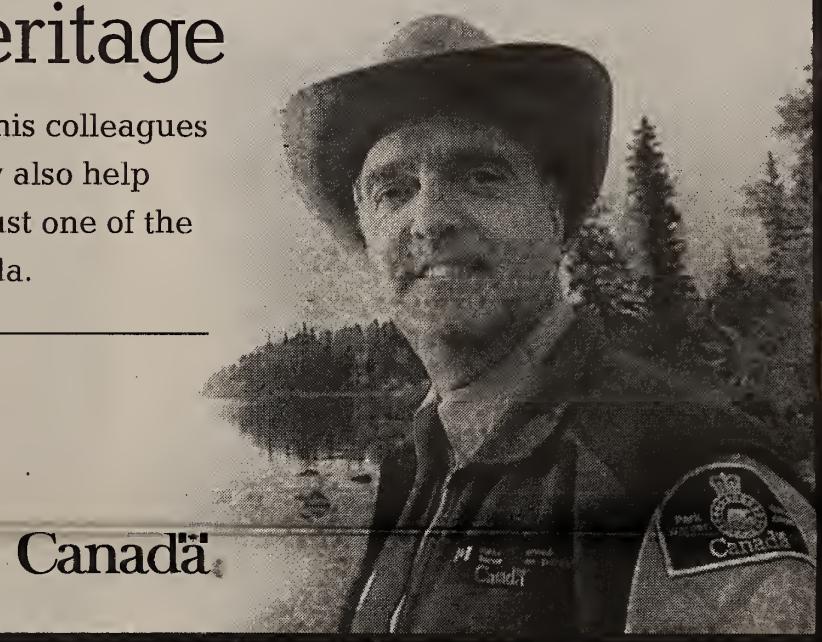
Those students only expected two semesters of study, but they are aware of the program change, added Jeffrey.

## Protecting our natural heritage

Jean Fau is a chief park warden for Parks Canada. He and his colleagues protect the plant and animal life in our national parks. They also help Canadians explore and enjoy these special places. This is just one of the hundreds of services provided by the Government of Canada.

For more information on government services:

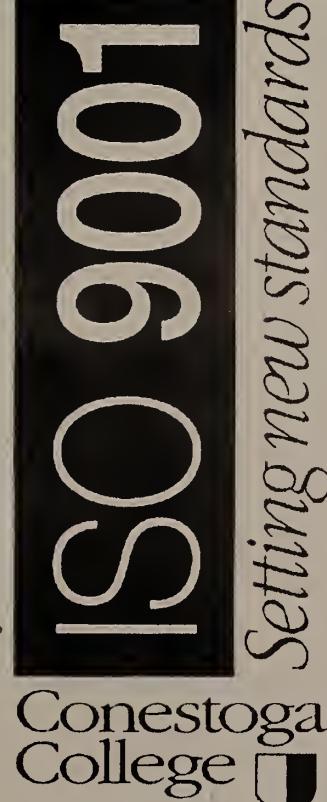
- Visit the **Service Canada Access Centre** nearest you
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- Call **1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)**  
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Conestoga  
College

## Quality Policy

*Conestoga College continually seeks opportunities for improvement to meet and exceed the needs of our students, employees and communities.*



# Steak house has cosy atmosphere

By Sanja Musa

The Charcoal Steak House, 2980 King St. E., Kitchener, has been operating in Kitchener for almost five decades.

There are no flashy signs outside the Charcoal Steak House, but when a doorman wearing a tuxedo and top hat opened the door as my companion and I walked inside, I understood why the restaurant doesn't need much advertisement.

We were almost sorry that we didn't have to wait on seemingly cosy and soft couches in the lobby, but were instead brought to our table in less than a minute.

Our table was placed beside the fireplace where a fire made soft shadows on the brick walls decorated with ivy. Light from candles also joined the fireplace in a game of flickering lights while low chandeliers looked more like decorations than sources of light.

Although I liked the romantic atmosphere, there were no windows in the room and it was a little bit too dark for my taste.

My companion and I were left in peace to adjust our eyes to the semi-darkness of the restaurant before our waitress arrived and took the drink order.

The wine list offered a wide variety of wines from Cabernet Sauvignon 1999, Chile, (\$29 a bottle), to Cabernet Sauvignon 1995, California, at \$190 a bottle. We chose Zinfandel 1998 (\$55 a bottle).

The suave, ripe and smooth wine we enjoyed as we waited for our meals was worth every penny.

The menu offered appetizers for everyone's pocket. Although there were about 20 different appetizers priced from \$3 for an individual rib to \$13 for chilled shrimp cocktail, it took me less than a minute to choose a large caesar salad (\$8).

The fresh salad of crisp romaine topped with bacon bits, croutons,

Padano cheese, ground anchovies and charcoal dressing was one of the most delicious salads I have ever eaten.

As I was enjoying the salad, my companion was hungrily watching me after he ate his French escargots (\$6).

It looked delicate and my companion said it was tasty, but it consisted of only half a dozen snails dipped in Café de Paris butter and garlic.

As soon as we finished eating the appetizers, our waitress brought us the main meals.

The stuffed baked chicken I ordered was filled with cheese and it melted in my mouth. It was served with fresh vegetables and a baked potato on the side and tasted heavenly with the mushroom sauce.

My companion said his U.S. prime sirloin strip steak (\$34) was not salty enough and the sauce in which the vegetables and potato were served was too spicy.

We ate almost everything on our plates and I was stuffed and too busy drinking the delicious wine to even peek at the dessert menu.

My companion was tempted to order some of the desserts priced from \$5 to \$10, but he couldn't eat anything else either.

We enjoyed the romantic atmosphere, our meals and the good wine and we didn't notice that two hours had passed by since we had arrived at the restaurant.

Reminded of time, we paid our bill of \$120 plus tip and prepared to leave.

As we were leaving, I felt as though we had just celebrated some special occasion and wished to come back again. I then caught the glimpse of a special feature for St. Valentine's Day. Three items priced at \$20 to \$30 each will be added to the menu.

I have already coaxed my companion into returning to the restaurant on Feb. 14.

## Double dribble



Future basketball star, Michael Harrison, 4, takes a break from the rigours of day care to enjoy some hoops at the rec centre Jan. 18. Kids from Doon Child Care Centre use the centre on a regular basis.

(Photo by Tammy Somerville)

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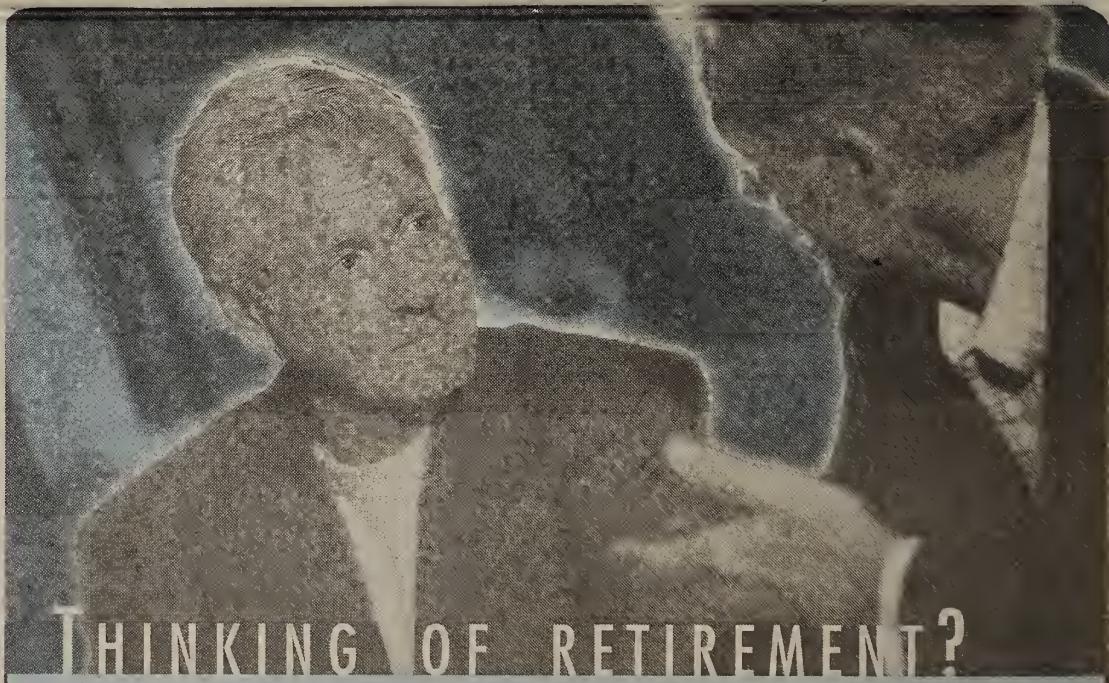
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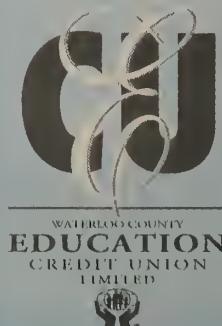
I-12



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## College hot spot for car thieves

By Sanja Musa

Two more vehicles have been stolen from Doon campus parking lots at Conestoga College.

A '95 General Motors pickup truck was stolen Jan. 4, from Parking Lot 10 and a '93 Chevrolet Blazer was reported stolen from Parking Lot 3 on Jan. 12.

A '97 Chevrolet pickup truck was reported stolen from Parking Lot 5 on Jan. 17. All three were stolen during the day.

Det. Steve Brnjaf, from the auto-theft department at Waterloo regional police, said he believes the same person committed all three thefts.

"We have contacted Al Hunter and we hope to catch the person responsible for the thefts," said Brnjaf.

Pickup trucks are a "hot item to be stolen," these days all across the Kitchener-Waterloo region, added Brnjaf.

Al Hunter, security supervisor at Conestoga College, agreed with Brnjaf saying that pickup trucks are the most commonly stolen vehicles at Conestoga College.

According to Brnjaf, the stolen vehicles are often stripped of parts or revamped which means their identification numbers are changed.

To Hunter's knowledge, the vehicles have not yet been recovered and Waterloo regional police said they couldn't disclose any information about any ongoing investigations.

In the meantime, Brnjaf cautioned, Conestoga students and employees should be observant of any people who seem suspicious and are seen wandering around the parking lots.

He said to be especially leery of tow trucks in parking lots.

"Some vehicles that shouldn't be towed may be towed in the middle of the day. People should call the police or call security to check out the suspicious vehicle," Brnjaf said. "If people did that, it would help us catch the thieves in the act."

Brnjaf recommended locking devices, alarms and kill switches, a hidden device in the car that allows only the driver to start the ignition, as preventative measures to avoid possible theft.

### Pointed perspective



Jason McArthur, a third-year industrial woodworking apprenticeship student, looks through the sliding stool he's making at the woodworking centre Jan. 16. (Photo by Sanja Musa)

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Class of  
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# Sports

## Condors humiliated by Fleming

By Paul Kostal

Conestoga hosted last place Sir Sanford Fleming on Jan. 17 with a real chance of moving up in the standings and getting closer to a playoff spot. It was also a real chance to build team confidence by getting a second win on the season.

Instead the Condors suffered their most humiliating loss yet this year, dropping the tilt 8-4 in front of a sometimes vocal crowd of 80 people.

The team seemed to respond early in the game, but then started making costly mistakes, something that has been happening a lot this season. The team has to refocus.

*Greg Rickwood,  
Condor head coach*

Playing only a day after their head coach resigned, the Condors seemed to respond to the desired shakeup immediately, flying out of

the gate like a thoroughbred.

Dave Stewart opened the scoring for the home side only 30 seconds into the game, putting a puck past Fleming goaltender Dave Burroughs, off a breakaway.

Fleming responded though, scoring three goals in three minutes halfway through the first frame. Jason Dickey tied it for the visitors, Kurt Johnston put them ahead and then potted his second of the night only 88 seconds later putting Fleming up 3-1.

Johnston then completed the natural hat trick with his third goal of the night two minutes into the second period.

Fleming's captain, Gary Montgomery, put the game out of reach when he scored Fleming's fifth goal less than a minute later.

Conestoga responded with two goals of their own from Greg Thede and Shawn Spence, but Fleming scored again in the last minute of the middle frame when Dickey netted his second goal of the night to put the score at 6-3 after forty minutes.

Fleming then added two more goals from Wes Neild and Dan Quin in the last period. Conestoga finished the scoring for the night when Jamie Hickey made it 8-4 late in the third.

The final shot total in the game was 44-30 for the visitors.

After the game, new head coach Greg Rickwood, called it the "worst loss of the season."

He said the team seemed to respond early in the game, but then started making costly mistakes, something, he said, that has been

happening a lot this season.

He added that Fleming took full advantage of their opportunities scoring two of their goals on the power play.

A scheduling quirk has the Condors off now until Feb. 3. Rickwood said he hopes that will be enough time for team to regroup

and put this behind them without making them too rusty.

He said the team has to refocus now and make an honest effort to make the playoffs. With Conestoga sitting in fifth place, and only a few games remaining on the schedule, that will be a difficult task indeed.

### COUNSELLOR'S CORNER: Finances

Are financial pressures creating stress for you? Is it difficult to concentrate on studying because you're not sure if you can pay the rent or buy groceries this month? There are a number of things you can do to help ease your financial worries.

If your financial situation has changed, check with the Financial Aid office to see if you can have your OSAP entitlement reassessed. They also have information on bursaries. The Conestoga College bursary is available to all students. There may be some other bursaries and scholarships available for students in specific programs. Scholarships and awards available for students in each program are listed in the Student Procedures Guide you received at the beginning of the school year.

Another way to relieve the pressure is through part-time employment. Opportunities for employment may be available at the college through the work/study program, including working as a peer tutor. Service clubs and churches also provide supports.

If you're having more immediate needs, Student Services can provide a limited number of grocery vouchers and provide access to the College/DSA-sponsored food bank. If you would like to discuss any of these options or other ideas, please ask to speak with a counsellor in Student Services.

*A Message from Student Services (Room 2B02)*



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- ★ To investigate career options and current jobs
- ★ To offer your résumé to several employers
- ★ To present your skills and qualifications in person

- ★ On specific employers that are of interest to you
- ★ On researching employers
- ★ On targeted questions to ask representatives
- ★ On dressing and presenting yourself professionally

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For more details and to pick up a Job Fair Guidebook, drop by the Student Employment Office in Room 2B04 at the Doon campus.

Guidebooks will also be available at the Guelph and Waterloo campuses.

## Conestoga coach hangs up his skates

By Paul Kostal

Ken Galerno, Conestoga's varsity hockey head coach, has resigned.

In an announcement he made to his team and coaching staff Jan. 16, Galerno cited personal issues as one of his main reasons for leaving the team.

Galerno was in his third year as head coach of the hockey team, and with the team mired in a season-long slump, he said he thought he needed to do something to "shake them up."

Tony Martin, development manager for athletics and the recreation centre at Conestoga College, praised the work Galerno had done.

"Ken's done a wonderful job here," he said. "He left for the betterment of the team. It was a classy move."

Both Galerno and Martin admitted that the team needed new direction, and that coaches often end up being sacrificed when players aren't playing up to their potential.

Martin echoed Galerno's words saying the Condors needed to be "shaken up."

Galerno's assistant, Greg Rickwood, has accepted the head coaching position. Rickwood praised the work Galerno had done and said he wouldn't do much to change the team now.

Rickwood said he hopes the team responds to his coaching and improves its record before the nationals in March.

With Conestoga hosting the national hockey championships in mid-

March, the Condors get an automatic bye into the tournament by way of hosting rights. But with only one win on the season, Rickwood said he didn't want people asking why the Condors deserved to be included in the tournament.

Galerno said he fully expects to be in a coaching position by the start of next season.

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to

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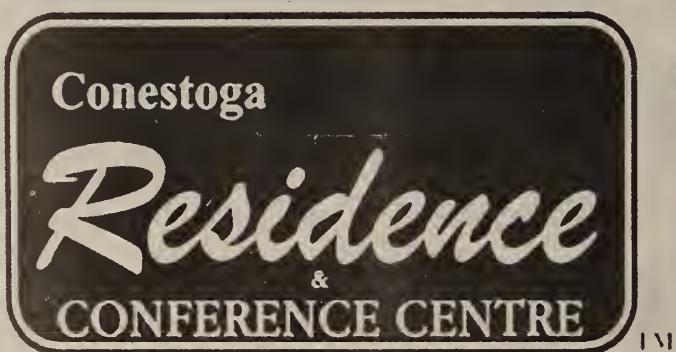
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